

## DMH EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT – KATTY CALLENDER

Continuing our stories that spotlight LACDMH employees who shine, this week we're featuring...



**KATTY CALLENDER, LCSW**  
**Program Manager II, Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall**

This July will be the 25<sup>th</sup> year that Katty Callender has worked for Los Angeles County. She has worked 22 of those 25 years with the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health.

Since July 2010, Katty has worked at Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall, providing administrative and clinical leadership. She has also managed the Long Beach Child & Adolescent Program, South Bay Mental Health, Harbor UCLA O/P Program, and the Compton Child & Adolescent Clinic/FSP/Wellness Center.

*What do you like about your job?* “My staff!!! Each and every one of them! I enjoy coming to work and being part of an incredible team. My boss, Dr. Karen Streich, is an amazing leader, role model and teacher. And I love my amazing, beautiful and handsome colleagues (Mary Romero, Angel Kelly-Bladyes, Carol Shauger, Bradley Kysar and Dr. Heidi Rotheim). We have an incredible support system that is always one phone call away.”

*Who/what inspires you?* “I want to give kudos to my staff at Los Padrinos. They are truly an inspiration. They’re a dedicated, fabulous team, servicing the youth every day and working in collaboration with Probation Department. They deal with very difficult, complicated mental health cases in a juvenile setting.”

*What quote inspires you?* “I have a few. Among the juvenile justice managers, we have a saying, ‘Sharing is caring.’ We have a cute pink, smiling bear as our mascot. I also have a frame in my office that says, ‘Soar: One’s attitude determines one’s altitude.’ Lastly, ‘Have a super and improving day.’ That is my favorite.”

*What do you enjoy doing in your spare time?* “Run. I try real hard to win races (in my age group, of course) or at least having fun trying again and again. I personally dedicate 1 ½ hours in the wee hours of the morning to run and cross train. The rest of my spare time is 100% dedicated to my wonderful husband and two beautiful children that make me very proud to be their mother. They keep me young and remind me what life is truly about – family, work, helping others and taking care of each other. 😊